



ALBERTA  
ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

*Office of the Minister*

October 12, 2023

Ms. Ruiping Luo  
Conservation Specialist  
Alberta Wilderness Association  
455 - 12 Street NW  
Calgary AB T2N 1Y9  
[rluo@abwild.ca](mailto:rluo@abwild.ca)

Dear Ms. Luo:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations, and me about the Alberta Wilderness Association's (AWA's) proposed reintroduction of plains bison into Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Suffield, and for providing the CFB Suffield Conservation and Reconciliation Opportunity briefing note.

While the Government of Alberta collaborates with the Government of Canada in managing CFB's elk population, the overall base is managed by the federal government. It was the Canadian government that reintroduced elk to the base in 1997-98, following recommendations of a public advisory committee. The initiative was led by the Canadian Armed Forces with Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Alberta government was involved in an advisory capacity only.

Before the Alberta government could support the AWA's proposed initiative, many socio-economic and environmental considerations would need to be addressed, including impact to agricultural operators, current land users, and safety for humans and wildlife. I understand the AWA recently met with Environment and Protected Areas about the proposed initiative, and I encourage the AWA to discuss this matter further with department staff.

For more information, please contact Mr. Pat Fargey, Provincial Species at Risk Specialist, in Edmonton, at 780-690-0739 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection), or at [pat.fargey@gov.ab.ca](mailto:pat.fargey@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Schulz  
Minister

cc: Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations  
Pat Fargey, Environment and Protected Areas